

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Newly-added Claims 18-29 are supported by the specification and the original claims. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.

REMARKS

Claims 18-29 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Niebauer and Examiner Gupta for the helpful and courteous discussion held with their representative on October 3, 2007. During the discussion, replacing Claim 1 with Claim 18 presented above was discussed. The following remarks expand on the discussion with the Examiner.

The present invention relates to an isolated peptide which comprises the amino acid sequence of the formula:

X-Y-Thr-Trp-Asn-Gln-Met-Asn-Leu (SEQ ID NO: 4)

where

X represents Ala, Abu, Arg, Lys, Orn, Cit, Leu, Phe or Asn,

Y represents Tyr or Met, and

the peptide induces cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTLs).

See Claim 18.

The rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) over Gaiger are respectfully traversed. Gaiger fails to disclose or suggest the claimed peptide. Accordingly, withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §101 is believed to be obviated by the amendment submitted above. The issues raised in the Office Action are believed to be obviated by the amendments submitted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the amendment submitted above. The issues raised in the Office Action are believed to be obviated by the amendments submitted above. In addition, the specification provides a detailed description for making and using the claimed peptide. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, believed to be obviated by the amendment submitted above. The issues raised in the Office Action are believed to be obviated by the amendments submitted above. In view of the foregoing, the claims are definite within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The obviousness-type double patenting rejections as set forth at pages 11-12 of the Office Action are believed to be obviated by the amendments submitted above. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed peptide is not suggested by the cited co-pending applications. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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